In the Claims:

1.(canceled)

2.(currently amended) A [hydroxamate composition according to claim 1] method according to claim 18 wherein the pH of the composition is in the range of from 11 to 13.

3. (currently amended) A [hydroxamate composition according to claim 1] method according to claim 18 wherein the pH of the composition is in the range of from 11.5 to 13.

4. (currently amended) A [hydroxamate composition according to claim 1] method according to claim 18 wherein the pH of the composition is in the range of from 12.0 to 12.5.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) A [hydroxamate composition according to claim 5] method according to claim 18 wherein the fatty portion of the fatty hydroxamate has a carbon chain length in the range of from 6 to 14 carbon atoms.

7. (currently amended) A [hydroxamate composition] method according to claim 6 wherein the fatty portion has a carbon chain length in the range of from 8 to 12 carbon atoms.

8. (currently amended) A [hydroxamate composition] method according to claim 7 wherein the fatty portion has a carbon chain length of 8 or 10 carbon atoms, or mixture thereof.

9. (currently amended) A [hydroxamate composition] method according to claim 7 [8] wherein the fatty portion of the fatty hydroxamate is sourced from fractionated coconut and palm kernel oil.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A [hydroxamate composition] method according to claim 18 [10] wherein the aqueous fatty hydroxamate composition contains less than 5% w/w of fatty acid impurity.

12. (currently amended) A [hydroxamate composition] method according to claim 18 [11] wherein the counter ion is sodium, potassium or a mixture of sodium and potassium.

13. (currently amended) A [hydroxamate composition] method according to claim 18 [11] wherein the counter ion is present in excess.

14. (currently amended) A [hydroxamate composition] method according to claim 18 [11] wherein the concentration of the hydroxamate in said aqueous fatty hydroxamate composition is in the range of from 1 to 60% by weight of the aqueous mixture.

15. (currently amended) A [hydroxamate composition] method according to claim 18 [1] wherein the concentration of the hydroxamate in said aqueous fatty hydroxamate composition is in the range of from 5 to 50% by weight of the aqueous mixture.

16. (currently amended) A [hydroxamate composition] method according to claim 18 [11] wherein the aqueous fatty hydroxamate composition is

formulated as a paste comprising 30 to 50% parts by weight of alkali metal hydroxamate and 50 to 70% parts by weight water and optionally, other components.

17. (currently amended) A [hydroxamate composition] method according to claim 18 [14] further comprising providing hydroxylamine in the aqueous fatty hydroxamate in an amount of up to 1% by weight of the total [hydroxylamine] aqueous fatty hydroxamate composition.

18. (currently amended) A method of collecting mineral values from an aqueous ore slurry by froth flotation, the method comprising the step of adding an aqueous fatty hydroxamate composition to the aqueous ore slurry wherein the pH of said aqueous fatty hydroxamate composition is at least 11 and said aqueous fatty hydroxamate is essentially free of water insoluble solvents.

19. (currently amended) A method of froth flotation of minerals from ore comprising:

(i) forming an aqueous slurry of the ore;

(ii) optionally adjusting the pH of the slurry;

(iii) adding to the slurry an aqueous composition of fatty hydroxamate [of claim 1] wherein the pH of the said aqueous fatty hydroxamate is at least 11 and said aqueous fatty hydroxamate is essentially free of water insoluble solvents;

(iv) agitating the slurry to mix and condition the fatty hydroxamate and ore slurry;

(v) adding a frothing agent to the slurry;

(vi) agitating the slurry to form a froth containing floated minerals; and

(vii) removing the froth and collecting the floated minerals in the presence of the hydroxamate.

20.(canceled)

21.(canceled)

22.(canceled)

23.(canceled)

24.(previously amended) A method of collecting mineral values according to claim 18 wherein the amount of hydroxamate reagent is in the range of 0.1 to 500 g per tonne of ore.

25.(currently amended) A method of collecting mineral values according to claim 18 wherein the hydroxamate composition is added to the slurry as a dilute solution of concentration in the range of from 1 to 30% of hydroxamate salt by weight of the total aqueous hydroxamate composition and [preferably] mixed for at least 30 minutes before use.

26.(original) A method according to claim 25 wherein the dilute solution of hydroxamate is prepared by diluting a hydroxamate composition with aqueous alkali metal hydroxide.

27.(original) A method according to claim 26 wherein the hydroxamate is diluted with 1% KOH solution.

28. (new) A method of collecting mineral values from an aqueous ore slurry by froth flotation, the method comprising:

forming an aqueous fatty hydroxamate composition by providing an aqueous hydroxylamine free base and combining the hydroxylamine free base with fatty acid ester in the presence of alkali to form a fatty hydroxamate

adding further alkali to the fatty hydroxamate to provide an aqueous mixture of fatty hydroxamate of pH of at least 11; and

adding the aqueous fatty hydroxamate composition of pH of at least 11 to the aqueous ore slurry forming a foam in the ore slurry and removing the froth and associated mineral values.

29. (new) A method according to claim 28 wherein the aqueous fatty hydroxamate of pH of at least 11 is essentially free of water insoluble solvents.

30. (new) A method according to claim 28 wherein the hydroxylamine free base has a concentration in the range of from 10 to 30% by weight.

31. (new) A method according to claim 30 wherein the hydroxylamine free base of concentration in the range of from 10 to 30% by weight is prepared by reaction of alkali metal hydroxide and hydroxyl ammonium sulfate prior to combining the hydroxylamine free base and fatty acid ester.